October 5, 2019

Scripture

The seventy-two disciples returned rejoicing and said to Jesus, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.” Jesus said, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power ‘to tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” At that very moment he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.” Turning to the disciples in private he said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

Our Scripture Reflection
It appears that the disciples have learned to some extent Jesus’ lesson on humility as revealed by the statement they make to Him upon their return from the mission: “Lord, even the demons are subject to us (the exorcisms they performed) because of Your name” (because of the power in the most holy name of Jesus). And what an important lesson this is for all of us who claim to be disciples of Jesus. Our efforts must always be rooted in and dependent upon the Grace we receive from Him, because without it, we are and can do nothing.

Food for your Journey

At a benefit dinner a few years ago, actor Jimmy Stewart gave a speech in which he tried to define leadership. Denis Waitley was there, and he summarized Stewart's speech as follows: "Real leaders come in all shapes and sizes and from all walks of life. But they all have a few things in common: "They are never so big that they can't bend down to help someone else. "They are never so wise that they don't remember who taught them. "They are never so gifted that they won't share their skills with others. "They are never so fearless that they don't play by the rules and live by the law. "They are never such big winners that they forget what it feels like to lose."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I read or listen to the news I become keenly aware of the effects of evil in the world, in my own community. The thought of witnessing against such a power is daunting. Your disciples long ago, however, did just that and they were victorious because of the power of Your name. In Your name, may I begin in baby steps, by doing one good deed each day. May I be joined by many others who, like me, want to give You glory. Amen